

Registration stamp and Small Queen combined on unique cover

John Lyding #116L

One of the advantages of membership in the Baltimore Philatelic Society is that one may have the opportunity to examine rarities that are rarely exhibited locally. Such was the case with the perfin cover from the Horace W. Harrison collection shown at the right.

I not only had the opportunity to examine this cover—which was shown as part of a magnificent one-frame exhibition of Canadian registration stamps—but Mr. Harrison permitted me

to make a photo copy of it.

collecting. Unique actually means “only one

fortunately its overuse in dealers’ advertising has degraded the stamp collector idea of the concept.

There are two stamps on the cover. The postage stamp is a Queen Victoria 3¢ issue of 1870-1889 (a small queen, Scott 37). This paid the postage. In addition the registration was paid with the 5¢ dark green



Unfortunately the word *unique* is heavily overworked in stamp

of its kind,” “sole,” “matchless,” “irreplaceable.” Unfor-

stamp (Scott F2).

Both stamps are perforated with the initials IC/R (Canadian pattern 11), used by the Intercolonial Railway.

Why is this cover unique?

According to Mr. Harrison—and Jon Johnson and Gary Tomasson’s Canadian perfins catalog—this is the only perfin known on registration stamps!

Endnotes

1. *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, July-August 2000, Vol. 79, No. 4. “Canada’s Five Cent Registered Letter Stamp, The Anomalous Plate 2,” George Arfken, Horace W. Harrison, and Harry W. Lussey, pp 217-230.
2. *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, September-October 2000, Volume 79, No. 5 “Canada’s Five Cent Registered Letter Stamp, The Anomalous Plate 2,” George Arfken, Horace W. Harrison, and Harry W. Lussey, pp 259-266.
3. J. C. Johnson & G. Tomasson’s *Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials* (British North American Philatelic Society, The Unirade Press, Toronto, 1985).
4. Private conversation with Horace W. Harrison, 27 June 2001.